

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06231 260620Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /071 W

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O 260538Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5323

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: SCM AND PRESIDENTIAL LETTER - KOREAN RESPONSE

SUMMARY: SCM RECEIVES MAJOR PRESS PLAY WITH PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S LETTER SUBJECT OF TOP LEADLINE POSITIVE TREATMENT.

END SUMMARY.

1. AT END FIRST DAY OF SCM PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO  
PRESIDENT PAK RECEIVED HIGHLY POSITIVE FEATURE COVERAGE  
IN KOREAN MEDIA, UNDER MAJOR HEADLINES SUCH AS "CARTER  
REAFFIRMS PLEDGE TO CONTINUE KOREA DEFENSE" (ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
KOREA TIMES) AND "COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY UNCHANGED"  
(KOREAN LANGUAGE TONGA ILBO). ALL PAPERS CARRYING FULL  
TEXT ON FRONT PAGES. OTHERWISE, PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED  
SECRETARY BROWN'S THREE AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING AND  
LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT PAK.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06231 260620Z

2. COVERAGE OF SCM ITSELF ALSO EXTENSIVE. PAPERS GIVE  
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO REPORTED AGREEMENT ON COMBINED  
COMMAND, WHICH KOREA TIMES ARTICLE DESCRIBES AS "ONE OF  
THE MAJOR CONCESSIONS THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO MAKE TO  
SWEETEN THE PILL OF WITHDRAWAL." ACCOUNTS STRESS  
RETRENTION OF U.S. GENERAL AS COMMANDER WITH KOREAN DEPUTY,

AND CONTINUATION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, WHILE NOTING  
U.S. AIR FORCES WILL BE UNDER EXCLUSIVE U.S. CONTROL.

3. OTHER ARTICLES INDICATE THRUST OF KOREAN REQUESTS IN  
SCM MEETING, STRESSING MINISTER SUH'S DESIRE FOR COMPEN-  
SATORY MEASURES BEFORE WITHDRAWAL. ACCOUNTS NOTE IN  
GERNERAL TERMS ROK REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT TRANSFER, U.S.  
AIR FORCE AUGMENTATION, WARTIME LOGISTIC SUPPORT, AND  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR KOREAN INDUSTRIES. IN DESCRIBING  
U.S. RESPONSES, PRESS RERWRTS SECRETARY BROWN'S GENERAL  
REAFFIRMATION THAT KOREAN SECURITY WILL BE MAINTAINED,  
INDICATIONS U.S. WILL INCREASE AIR FORCES IN KOREA TO  
60 PLANES, AND FAVORABLE VIEW OF REQUEST FOR F-16  
PURCHASE, WHILE NOTING "HESITANCY" ON TRANSFER OF M-60  
TANKS. AS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PAPERS REPORT  
PRESIDENT CARTER PLANNING TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL  
FOR \$800 MILLION ONE-TIME PACKAGE, AND FIVE-YEAR \$1.1  
BILLION FMS PROGRAM. HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO \$7 BILLION  
PROGRAM CONTINUE, AT SAME TIME WASHINGTON-SOURCED STORY  
ALSO REPORTS U.S. WILL INCREASE LICENSING OF ROK DEFENSE  
INDUSTRIES, AND THAT ROK PRESSING TO INCREASE WAR  
RESERVE STOCKS, NOW RATED AT 30-45 DAYS.

4. REGARDING WITHDRAWALSCHEDULE, PRESS INDICATES GENERAL  
AGREEMENT ON FIRST STAGE WITHDRAWAL OF 6,000 PERSONNEL BY  
END OF 1978. CHOSON ILBO JULY 26 REPORTS U.S. HAS AGREED  
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PAGE 03 SEOUL 06231 260620Z

TO KEEP SECOND STAGE UNDER REVIEW IN RELATION TO SECURITY  
SITUATION IN KOREA. SAME PAPER ALSO CARRIES WASHINGTON  
DATELINED ARTICLE INDICATING THAT U.S. WILL EVENTUALLY  
WITHDRAW TOTAL OF 27,000 TROOPS, LEAVING 8,000 AIR FORCE  
AND 6,000 ARMY (COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTIC) PERSONNEL.

5. COMMENT: OVERALL PRESENTATION SO FAR POSITIVE,  
PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS PRESIDENTIAL LETTER. PRIVATE  
COMMENTS ALSO INDICATE THAT THE REASSURANCE LETTER  
PROVIDED IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, NOTING IT DEALS WITH  
BASIC ISSUE OF U.S. POLICY, OF MORE CRUCIAL CONCERN TO  
ROK THAN SPECIFIC LEVELS OF MATERIAL OR FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, MARR, KS, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PAK CHONG-HUI)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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